CLEAN STREAMS
HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

FACT SHEET

RAW SEWAGE OVERFLOW LONG-TERM CONTROL PLAN

THE PROBLEM

- The White River and many of our neighborhood streams are polluted by sewer overflows during rain and snow storms.
- Raw sewage overflowing in our streams is a health hazard, smells and looks disgusting, hurts the environment and harms the quality of life in our neighborhoods.
- Overflows happen because the 100-year-old sewer system in the old city limits was designed to carry both sewage and rainwater. When it rains as little as a quarter-inch, these sewers overflow into nearby streams, including White River, Fall Creek, Eagle Creek, Pleasant Run, Bean Creek and Pogues Run.

THE SOLUTION

The city now has a long-term plan to capture raw sewage overflows during all but a few large storms each year. This plan protects streams during dry weather and small storms when people are most likely to be using them for recreation.

The plan involves digging a deep tunnel along White River and Fall Creek to capture overflows during a storm. New sewers along Eagle Creek, Pleasant Run, Bean Creek and Pogues Run will capture overflows and direct them to the tunnel and treatment plants.

Underground storage tanks and new sewers also will capture raw sewage that would otherwise flow into the streams. The tunnel and underground tanks will store the sewage until after a storm, when it will be sent to the city's sewage plants for treatment. In some neighborhoods, the city will separate sewers to eliminate overflows.

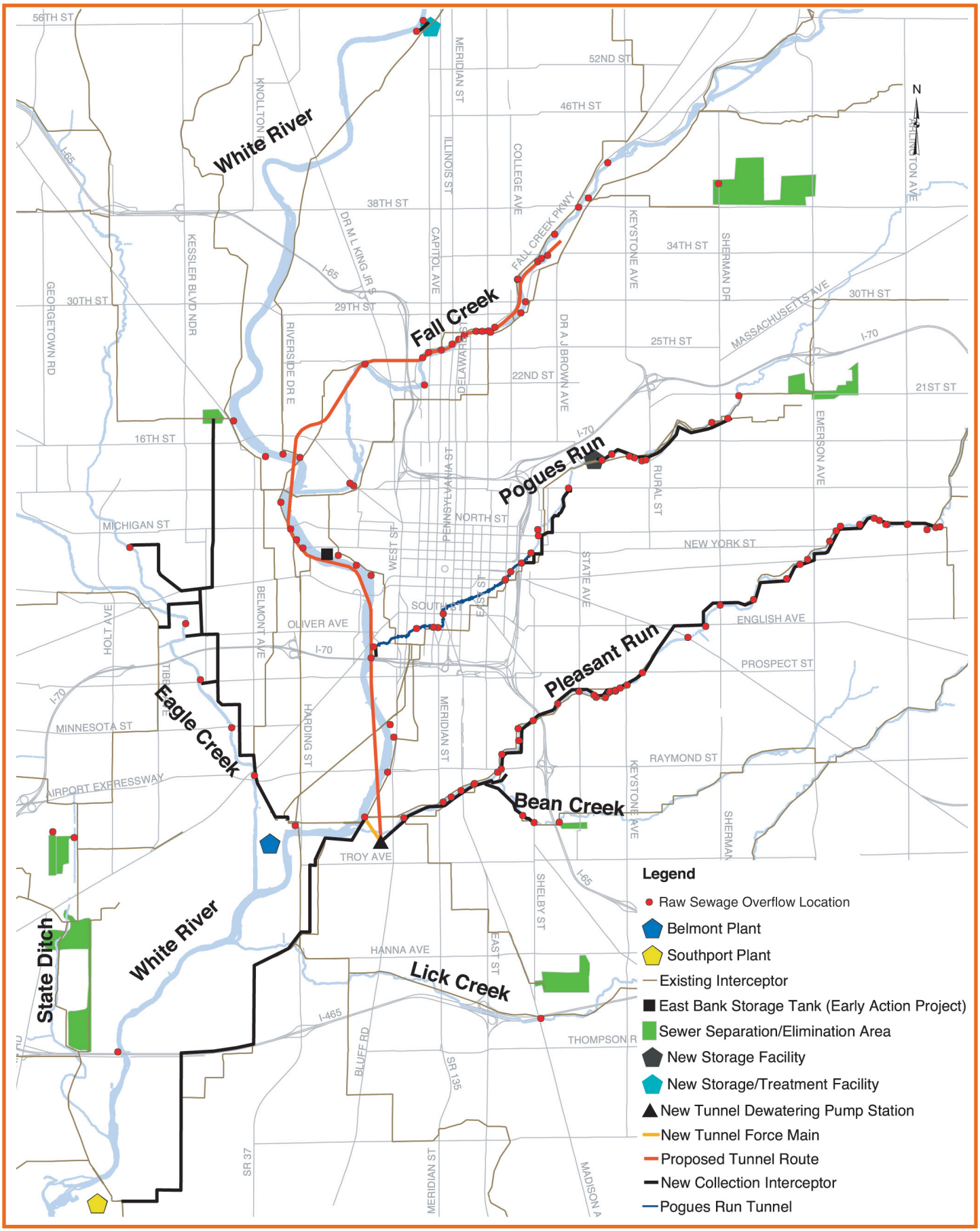
Many projects already are underway or completed.

THE COSTS AND BENEFITS

The city's plan will cost $1.8 billion in 2005 dollars and will be implemented by 2025. It will:

- Reduce sewage in our streams by capturing and treating 97 percent of the stormwater and sewage along Fall Creek and 95 percent along White River and other waterways in a typical year.
- Reduce overflow frequency from 45-80 storms per year to 0-10 storms, depending upon weather conditions. Overflows are expected to occur two storms per year on Fall Creek and four storms per year on White River and other waterways in a typical year.
- Make steams healthier for people, fish and wildlife
- Reduce odors and capture toilet paper, sanitary items and other unsightly materials found in overflowing sewers
- Minimize impacts on neighborhoods and businesses by locating most overflow storage facilities deep underground.

In October 2004, the city sought public input on the final options for reducing raw sewage overflows. The city adopted the recommendations of these residents, as well as its Clean Stream Team Advisory Committee.



This map illustrates the city's plan to reduce raw sewage overflows. The plan involves building new sewer "interceptors," the main arteries of the sewer sysytem. It also will involve underground storage tanks and tunnels, improvements at the treatment plants and sewer separation in remote areas. For more information, visit our Web site at www.indycleanstreams.org.